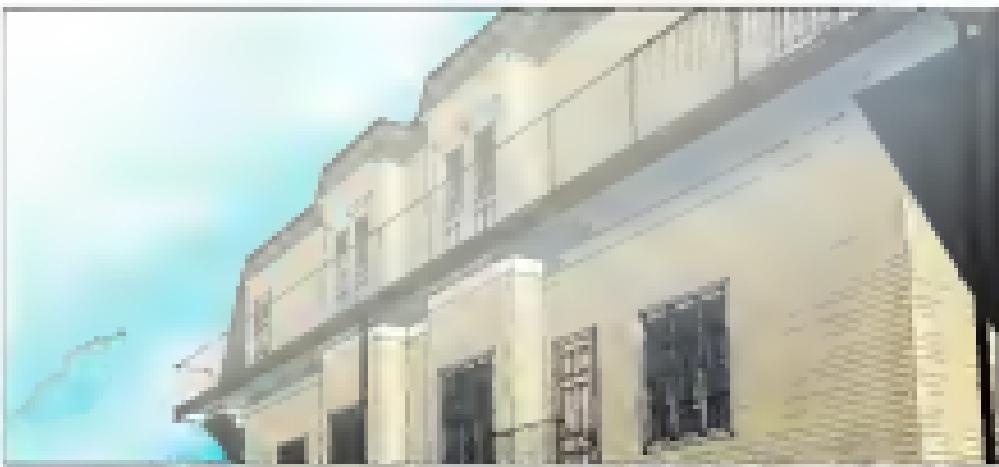


DREAM

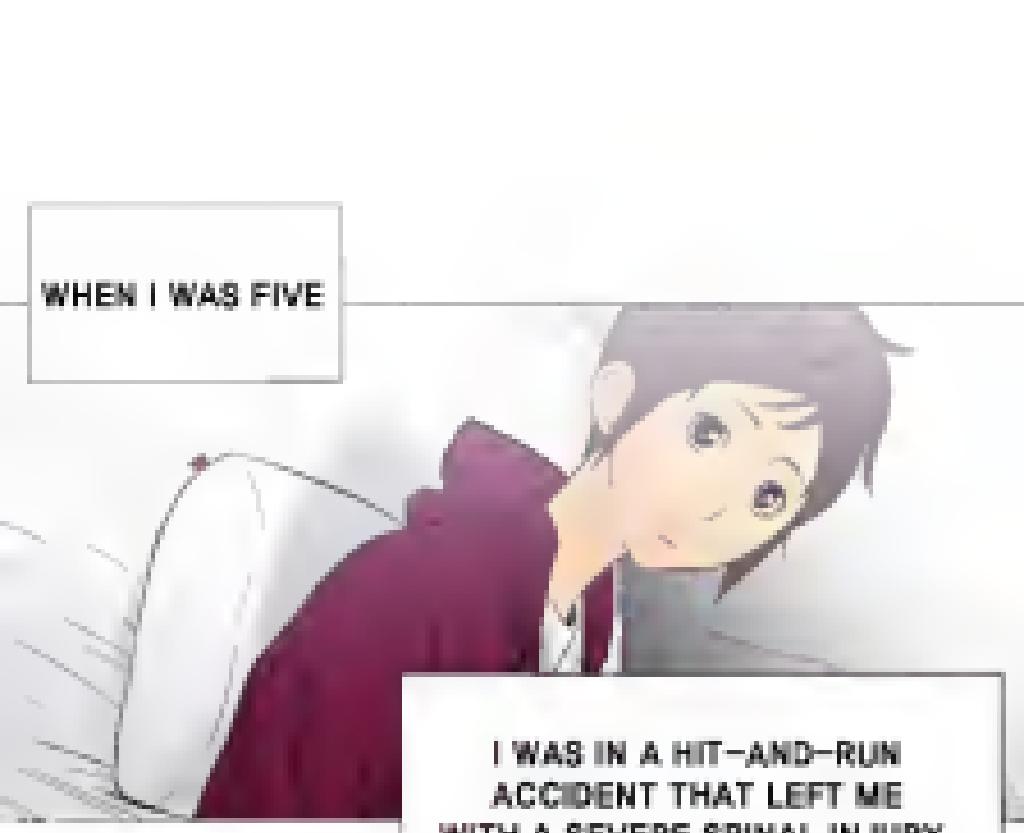
STORY: TAEBAL

ART: KYEONGJOON KIM

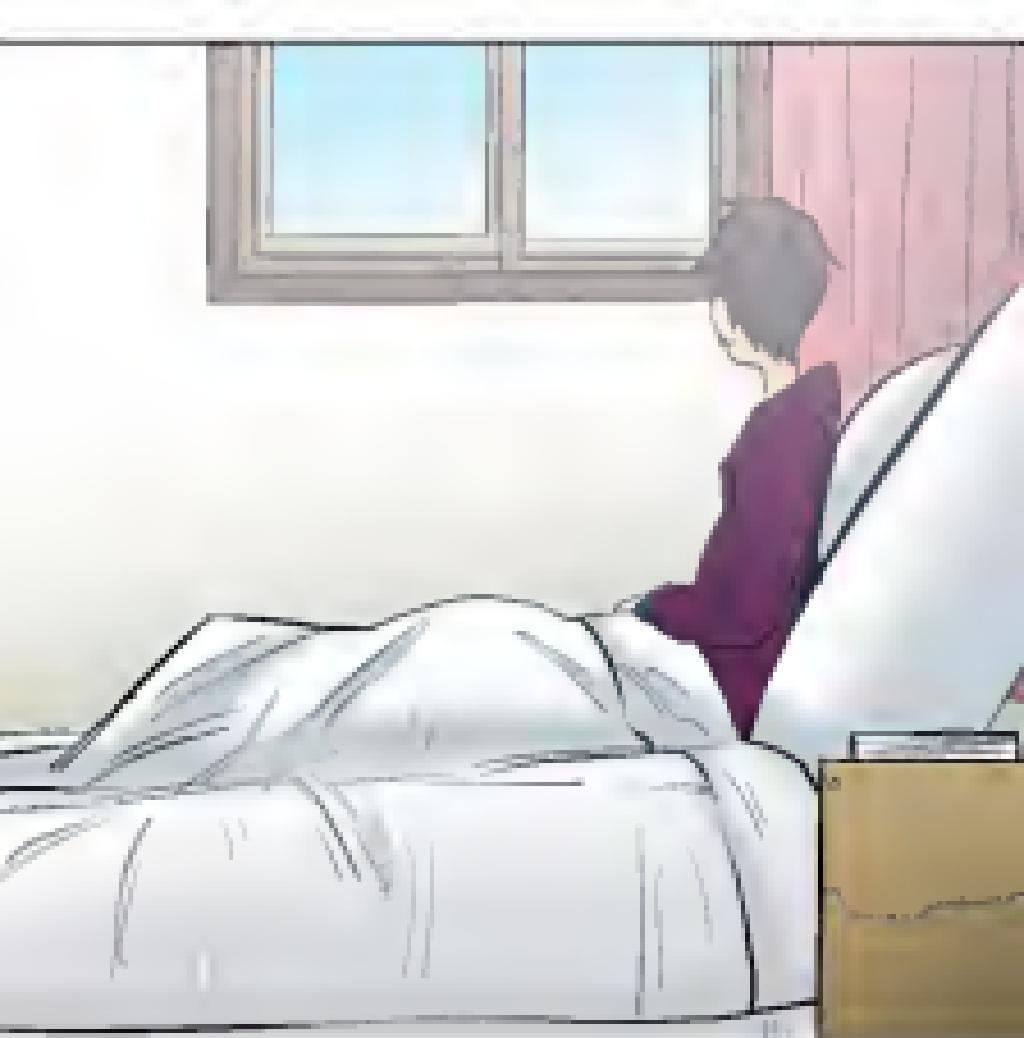




WHEN I WAS FIVE



I WAS IN A HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT THAT LEFT ME WITH A SEVERE SPINAL INJURY, AND FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO USE MY UPPER BODY...





LUCKILY, I CAN STILL USE
BOTH OF MY ARMS...

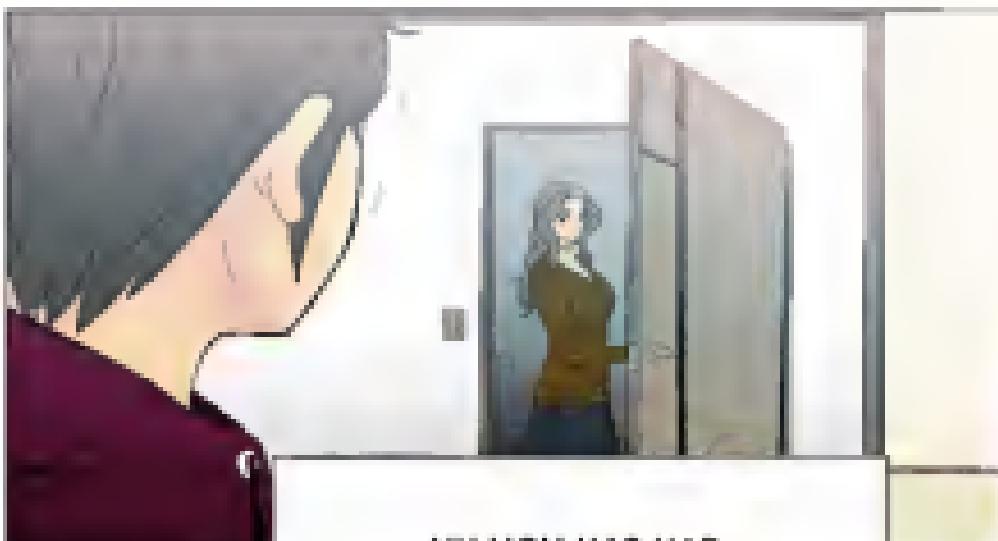


LATELY,
I'VE SOMETIMES FELT PAIN
AND SIGNS OF PARALYSIS
IN MY SHOULDERS
AND NECK...

A black and white illustration of a woman with dark hair, wearing a maroon sweater over a white collared shirt. She is sitting cross-legged on a bed with white sheets. A speech bubble above her contains the text "SPENDING THE LAST TEN YEARS LIVING IN BED...".

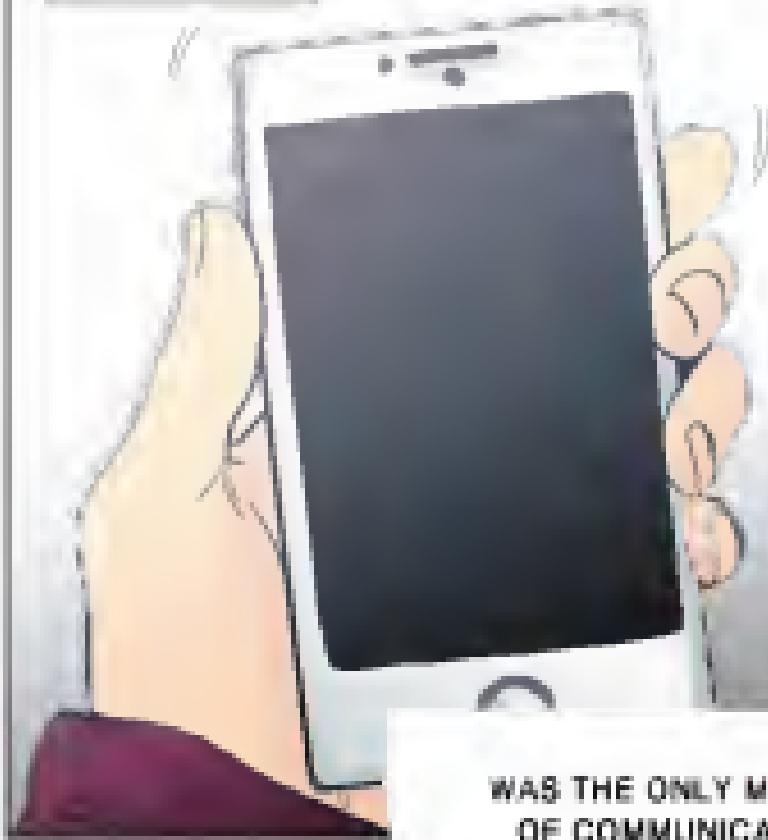
SPENDING
THE LAST TEN YEARS
LIVING IN BED...

I'VE ACCEPTED THIS ENDLESS
BOREDOM AS NORMAL.

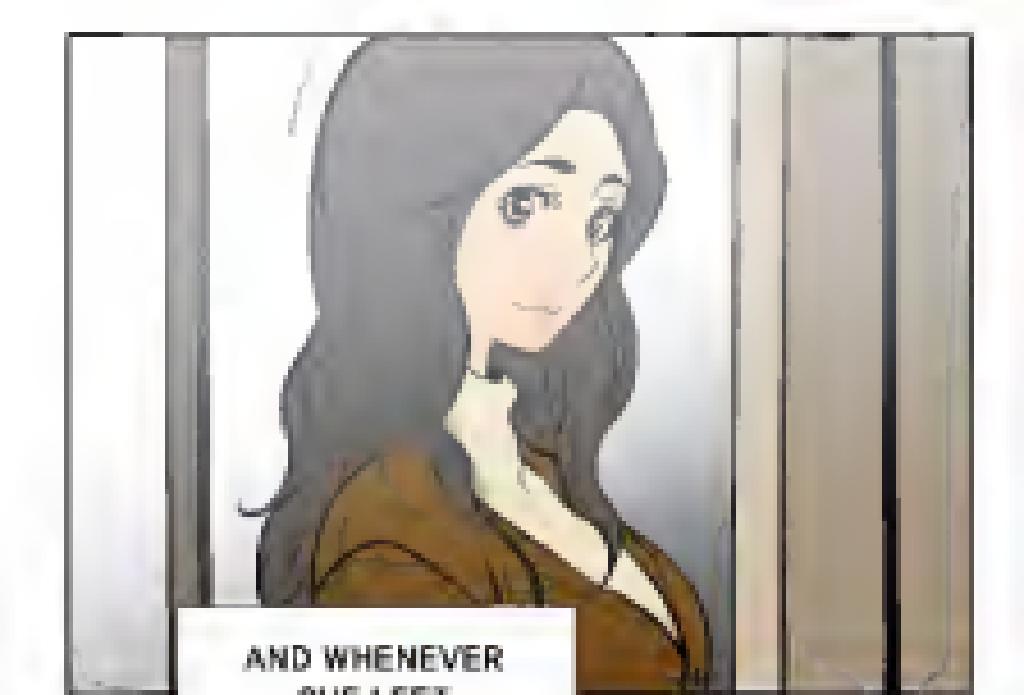


MY MOM HAS HAD
TO WORK EVERY DAY
TO COVER MY HOSPITAL BILLS...

MY PHONE...



WAS THE ONLY METHOD
OF COMMUNICATION
WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD...



AND WHENEVER
SHE LEFT
FOR WORK...



DAY OR NIGHT,



I WAS CONSTANTLY
LOOKING AT MY PHONE
FOR ENTERTAINMENT.

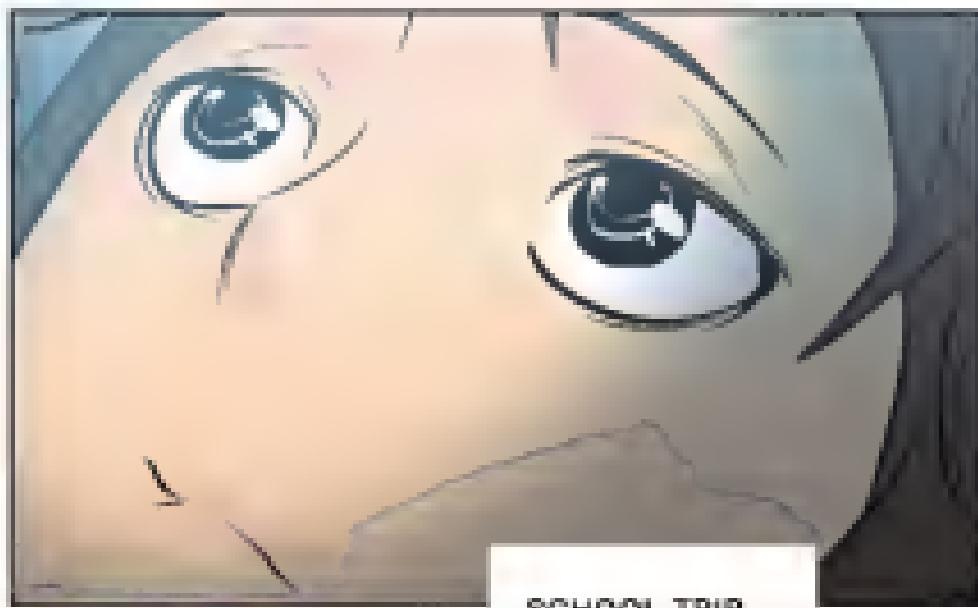


TAEHYUN KIM
-34 MINUTES AGO-

WHAT AN AWESOME SCHOOL TRIP!!!



WRITE A COMMENT...



SCHOOL TRIP...



NOBODY... SHOWED...
ANY SIGN OF INTEREST
IN ME...

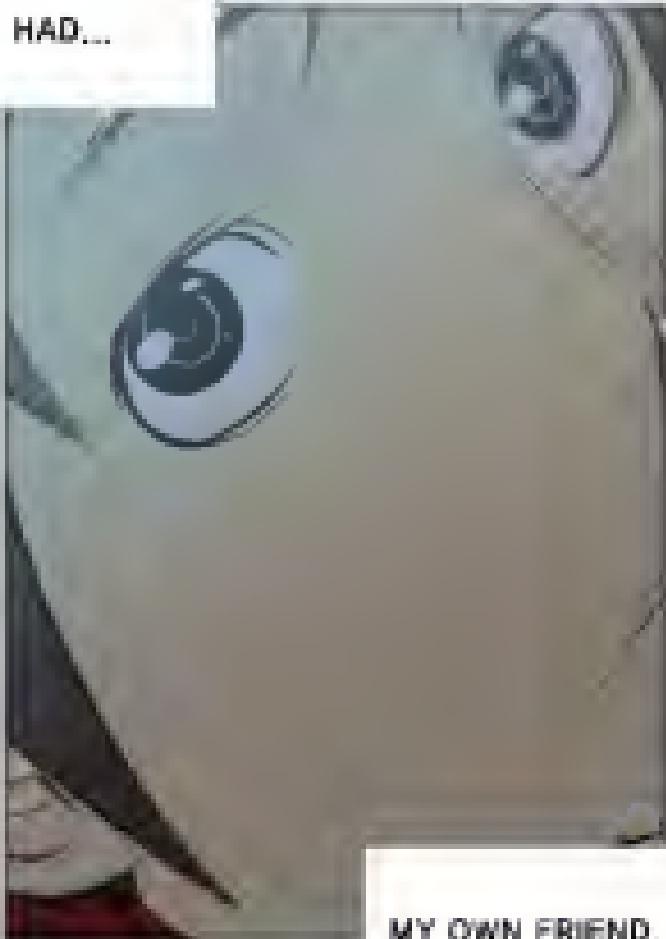


A blue cat is looking out of a window. A speech bubble from the cat contains the text "IF ONLY...".

IF ONLY...

GLANCE-

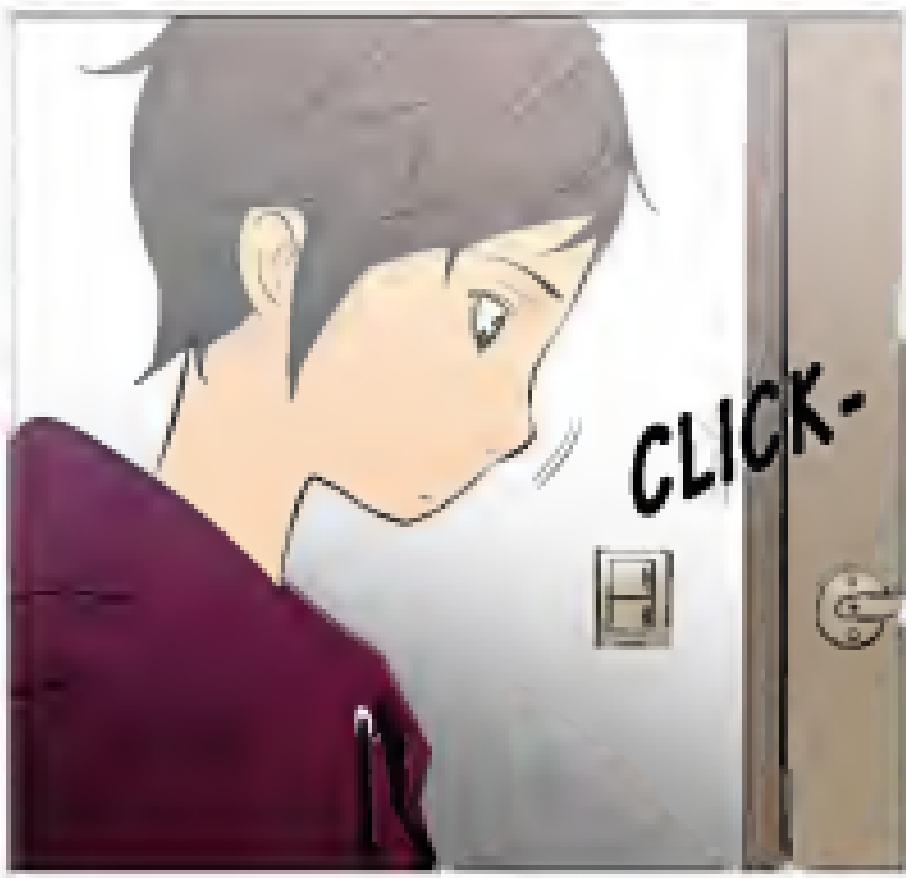
I HAD...



MY OWN FRIEND...







CLICK-

TICK-
TOCK-



TICK-
TOCK-

TICK-
TOCK-



DING-DING



WHO COULD
IT BE?

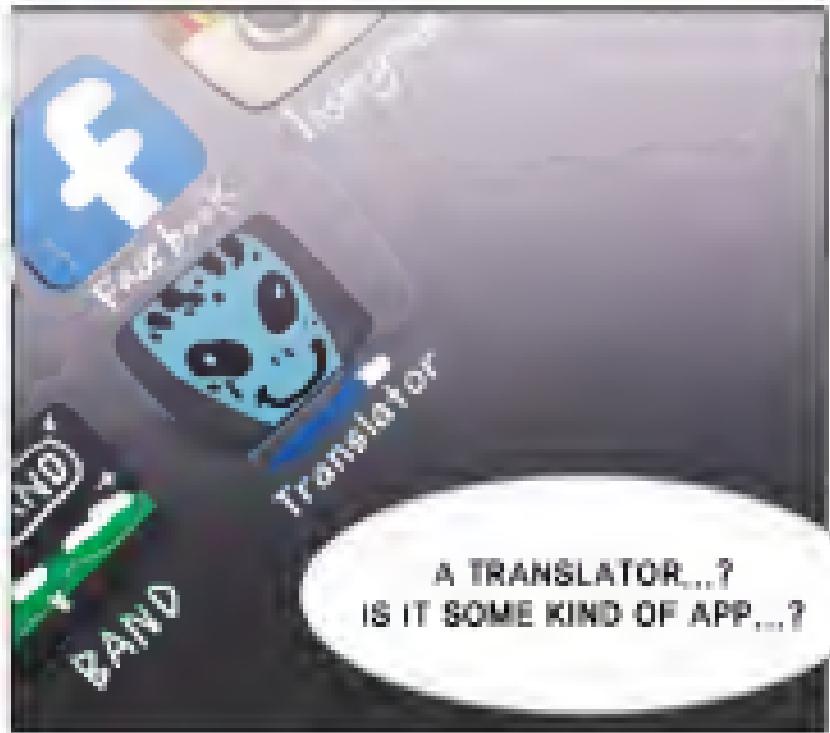
GLANCE-



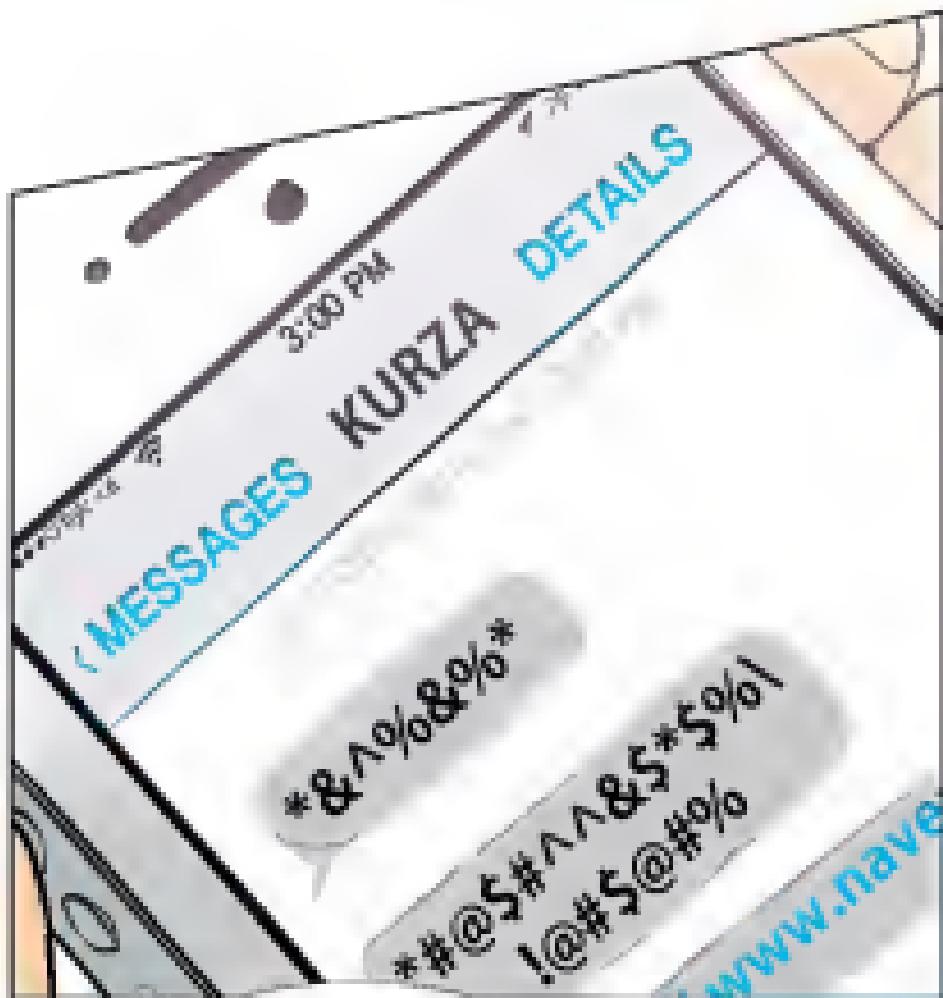
RUSH-

HM..?





A TRANSLATOR...?
IS IT SOME KIND OF APP...?



KURZA..?
WHAT'S THIS...

THERE'S A LINK...

DING-

UH...

~! THERE~ EARTHLING~

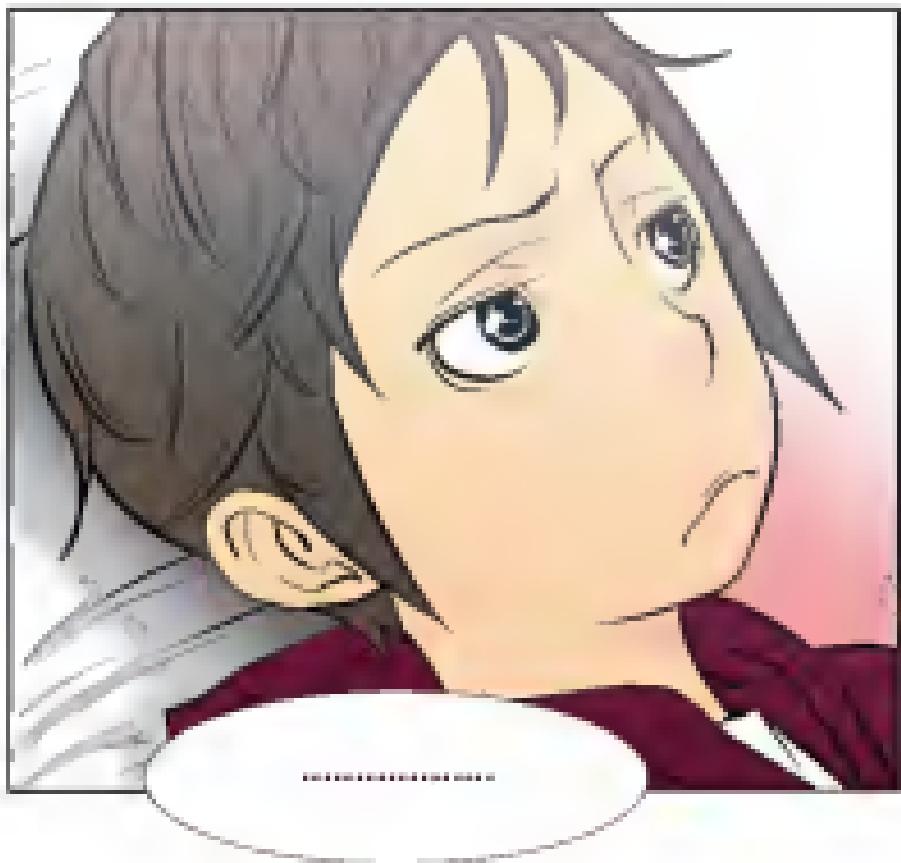
~! KURZK~
FROM THE PLANET YARIZAMETAN~
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?~

<http://www.naver.co.kr>









DON'T WANNA HANG OUT WITH ME?
I WANNA BE YOUR FRIEND
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

LIFT-

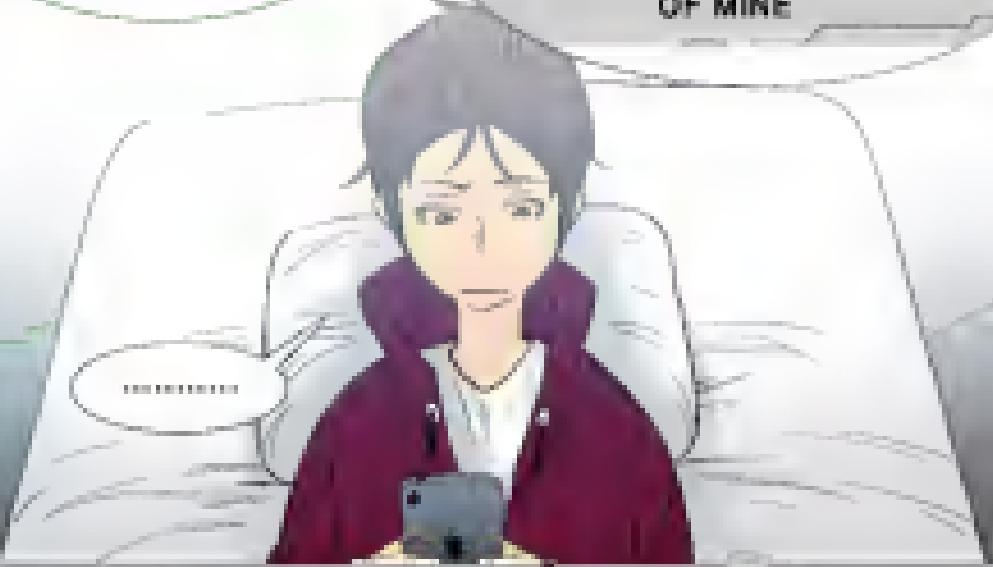


TATA-TATATA-

JYDOL.. I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE..
BUT COULD YOU STOP
MESSING AROUND..?

DING-

I'M NOT MESSING AROUND.
I JUST WANNA BE YOUR FRIEND
I'LL SEND YOU A PICTURE
OF MINE



DING-





UR... HM...



TATA TATHA

I KNOW YOU TRIED...
BUT WHY'RE YOU DOING ALL THIS...?
THIS MAKES NO SENSE..
HOW COULD YOU BE AN ALIEN...

DING

I'M SERIOUS
WANNA SEE A PICTURE
OF MY FRIENDS?

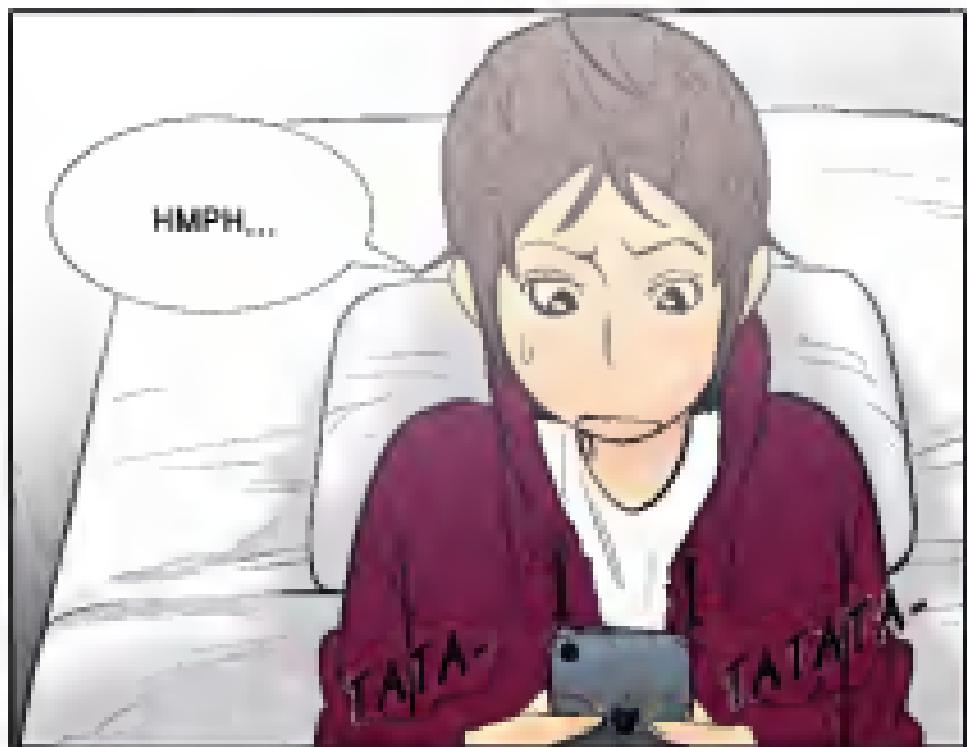
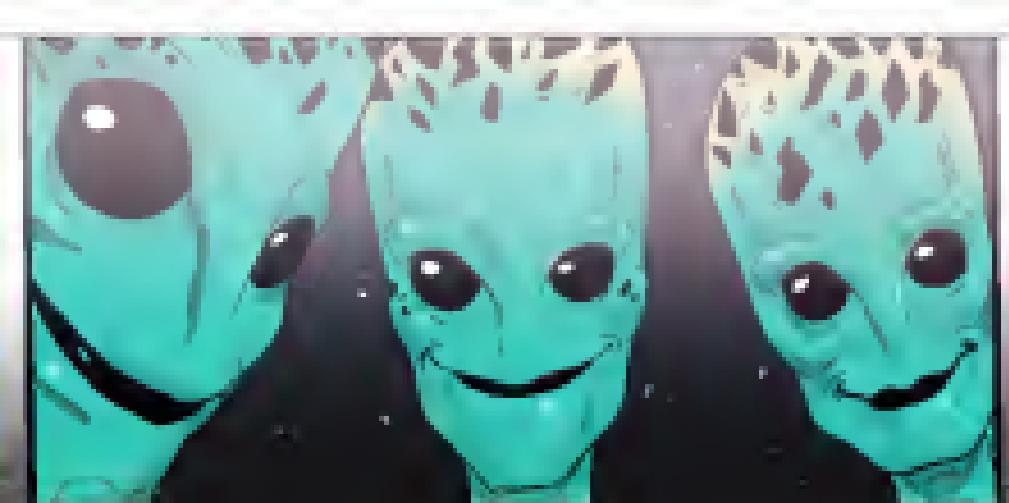


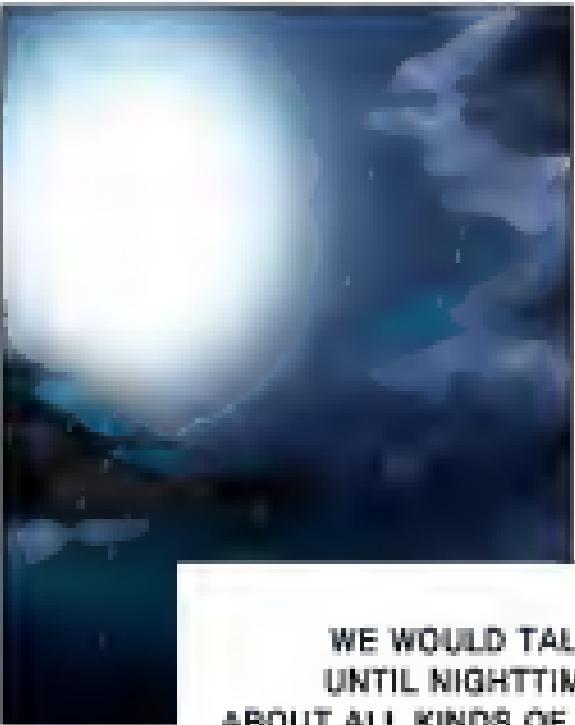
IT'S HARD TO TRUST
A PICTURE...
BUT I CAN TELL YOU'RE
REALLY TRYING,
SO I'LL TRY TO TRUST YOU

RINGO

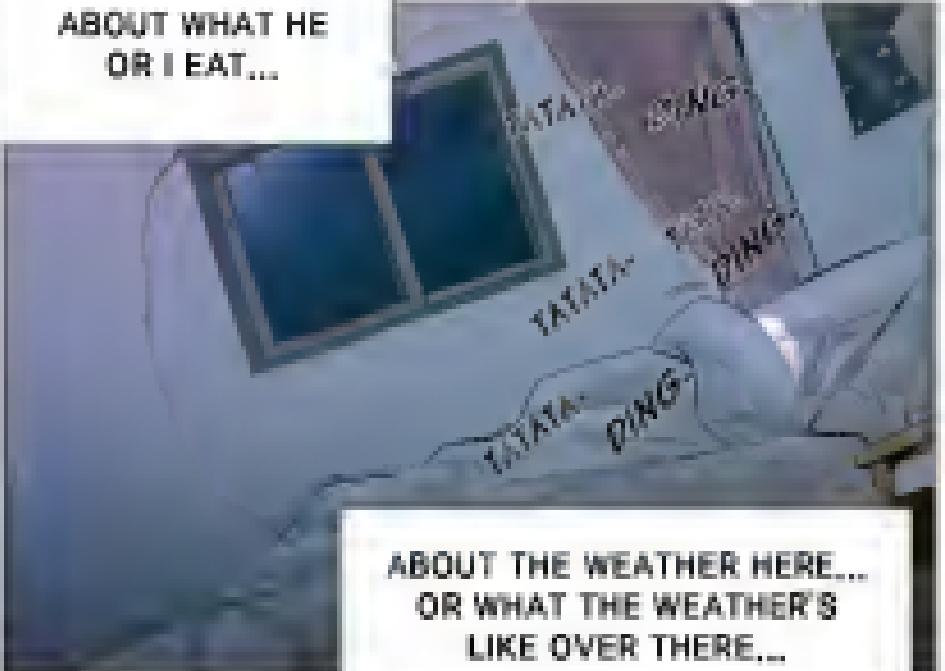
GOOD,
THANK YOU~~

AND SO I STARTED EXCHANGING
MESSAGES WITH SOMEONE WHO
CLAIMED TO BE AN ALIEN.





WE WOULD TALK
UNTIL NIGHTTIME
ABOUT ALL KINDS OF THINGS.



ABOUT WHAT HE
OR I EAT...

ABOUT THE WEATHER HERE...
OR WHAT THE WEATHER'S
LIKE OVER THERE...



WHY I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT
TO LIE ON MY BED ALL DAY...
WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SCHOOLS
ON THE PLANET YARNZAMETA...

IT WAS ALL VERY
CASUAL STUFF...



BUT I WAS HAPPY
TO HAVE SOMEONE
TO TALK WITH FOR HOURS.

SINCE THEN, I WOULD STAY UP
ALL NIGHT FOR DAYS
AT A TIME TALKING TO KURZA,
AND IF I DIDN'T HEAR FROM HIM,



HEY JIYOOl,
WHO HAVE YOU BEEN
MESSAGING SO
MUCH LATELY?

HM...? AH...
I MADE A FRIEND,
MOM

I'D WAIT FOR HIM TO MESSAGE ME.

WHO HE WAS... WHETHER HE WAS A PERSON...
OR WHETHER HE REALLY WAS AN ALIEN...
DIDN'T MATTER TO ME.

I WAS JUST SO HAPPY THAT
I FINALLY HAD A REAL FRIEND
WHO WAS INTERESTED IN ME
AND ASKED ME THINGS.





WOW, REALLY?
WHO IS IT?

I'M SORRY BUT...
I CAN'T TELL YOU
WHO IT IS, MOM...
WE MADE A PROMISE
TO EACH OTHER~

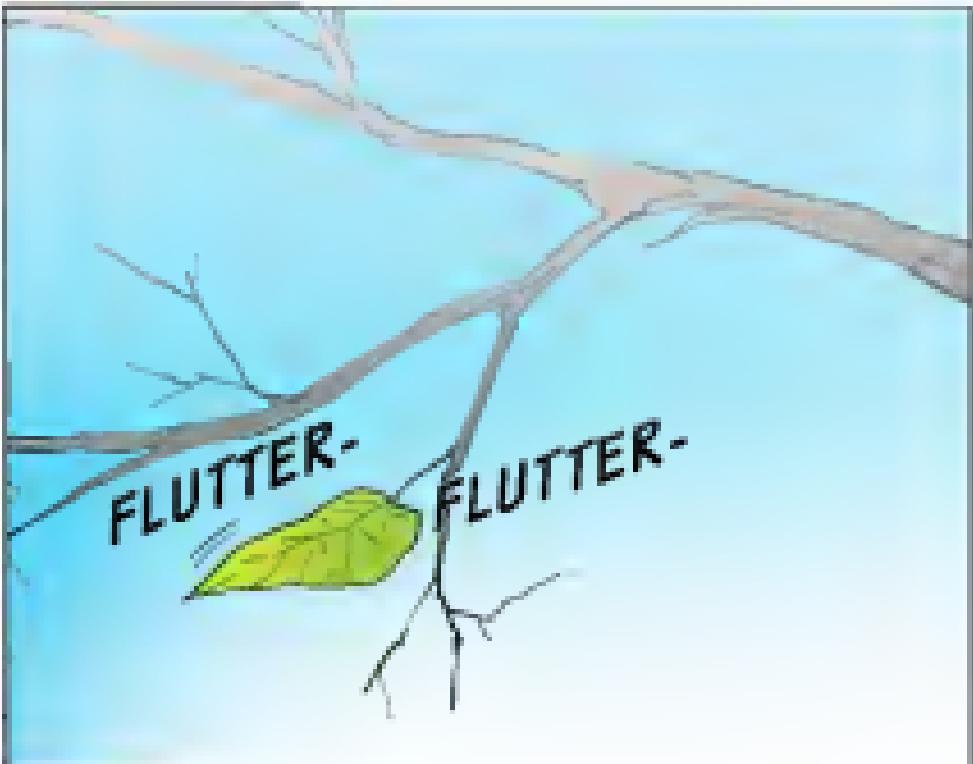
HMM...
YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE
THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN
TELL ME?

YEAH...



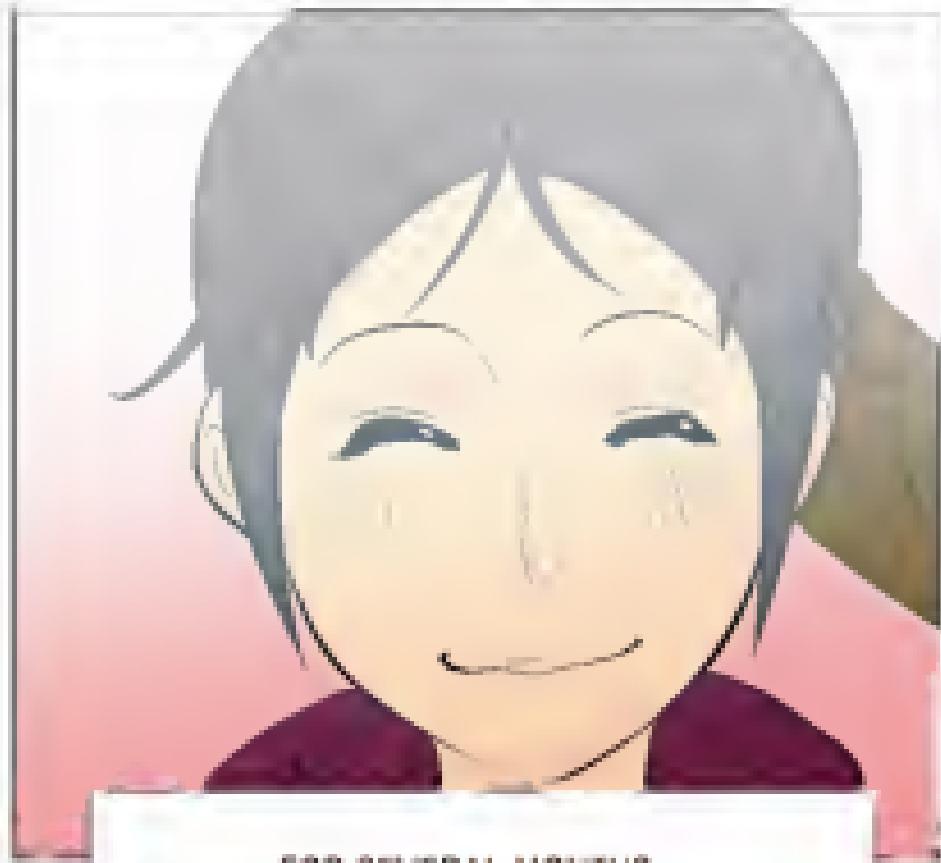
I'M GLAD, JIYOO, YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN FRIEND...

PAT

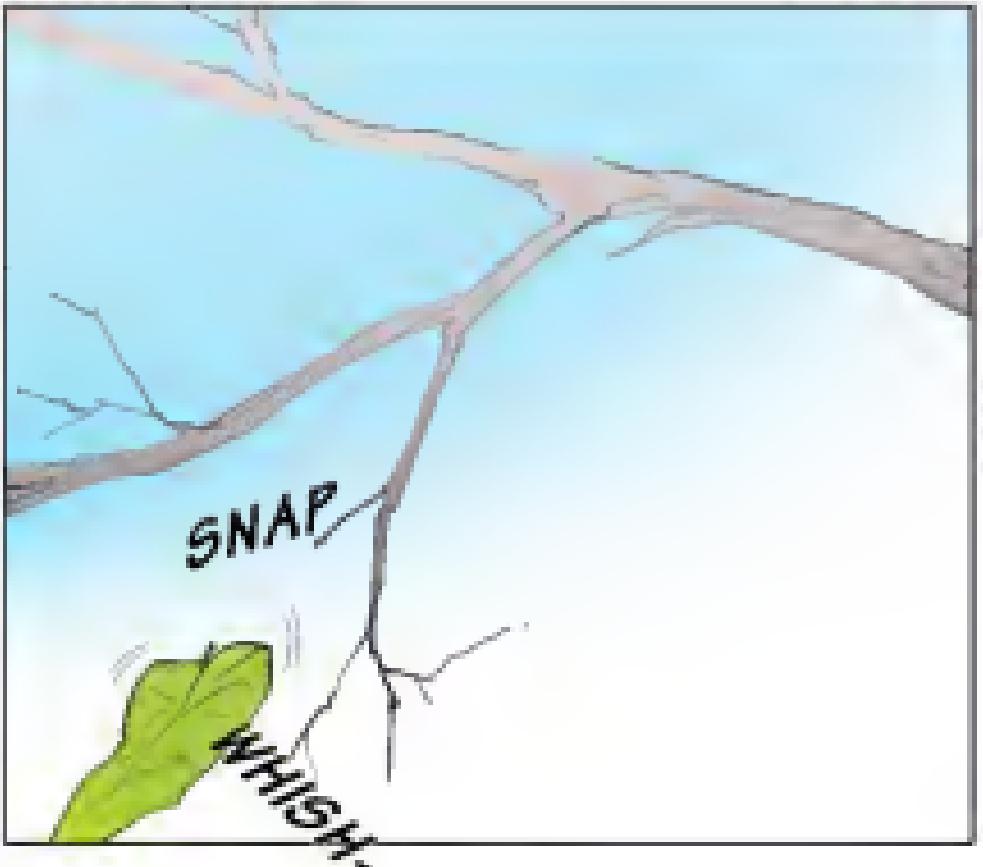


FLUTTER-

FLUTTER-



FOR SEVERAL MONTHS...
I SPENT ALL NIGHT EVERY DAY
MESSAGING KURZA AND
WE BECAME EACH OTHER'S BEST FRIEND.



SNAP

WHISH.





DING'

I THINK..
THIS MESSAGE IS
GONNA BE MY
LAST ONE TO YOU

LAST...!!?

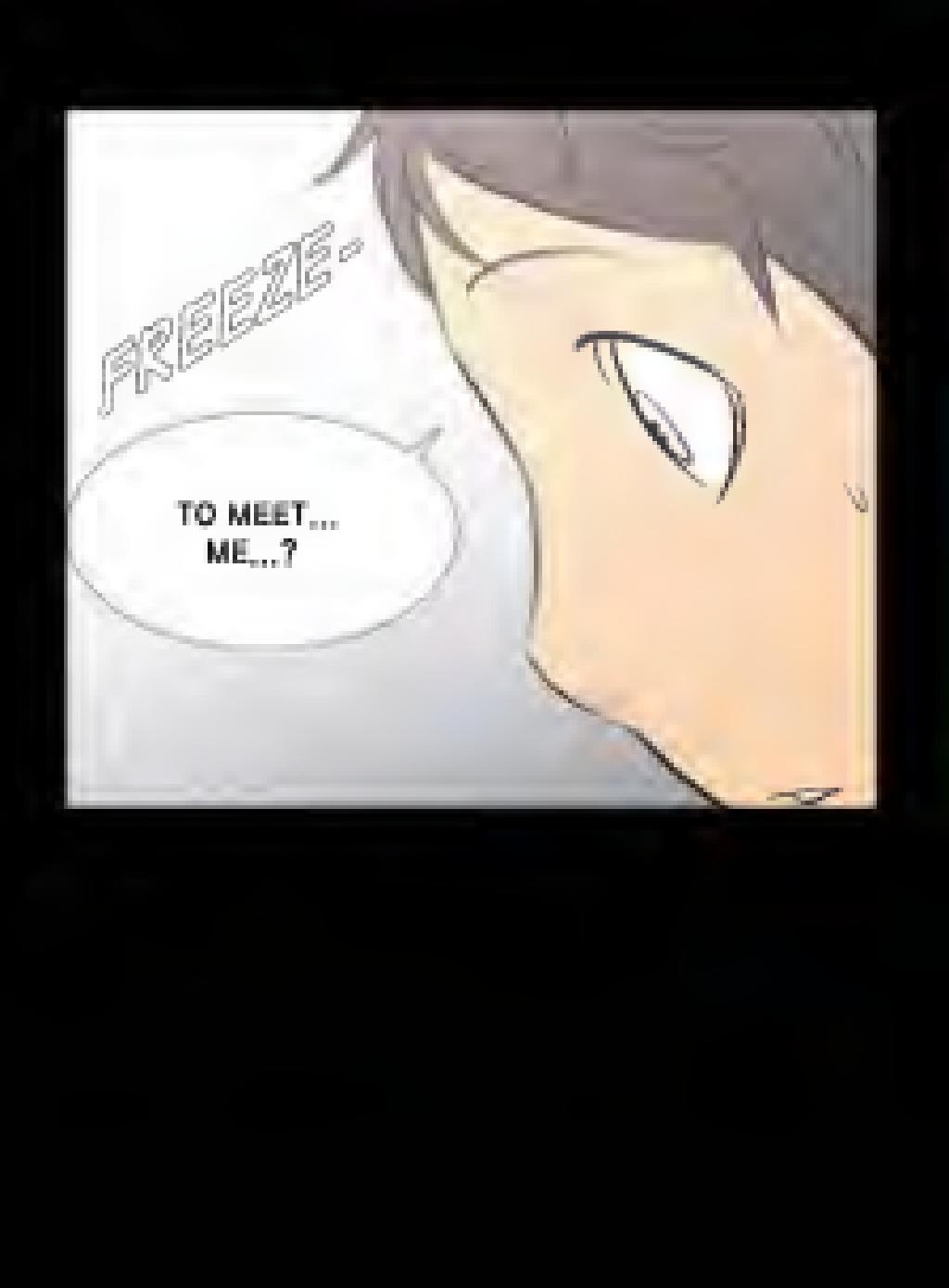
TATATAH

WHAT??
WHY... WHAT'S WRONG?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

DING!

NO, IT'S JUST...
I'M COMING TO
MEET YOU



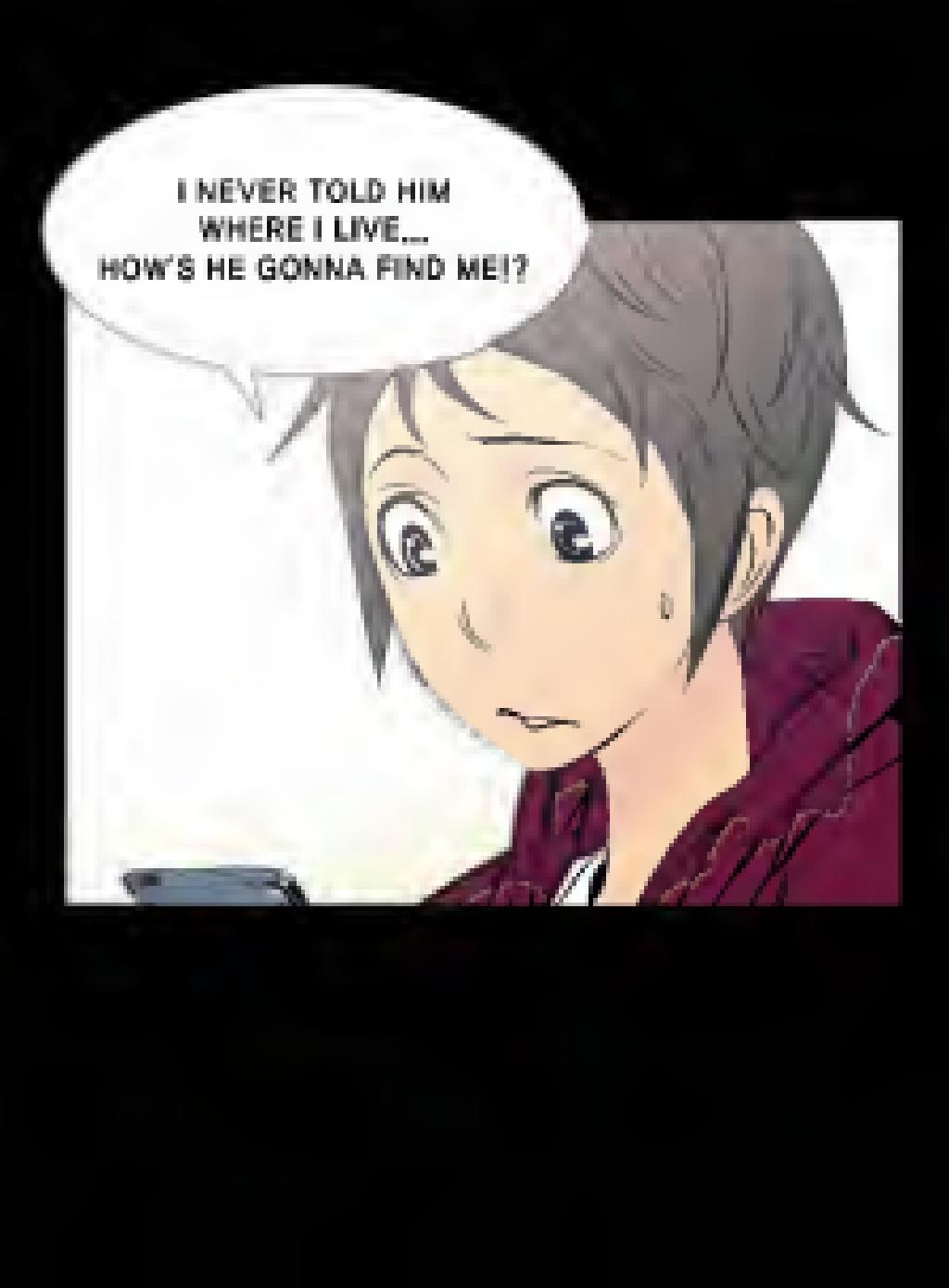


FREE

TO MEET...
ME...?

DINOGO

I'LL WAIT A BIT...
I'LL BE THERE SOON!!



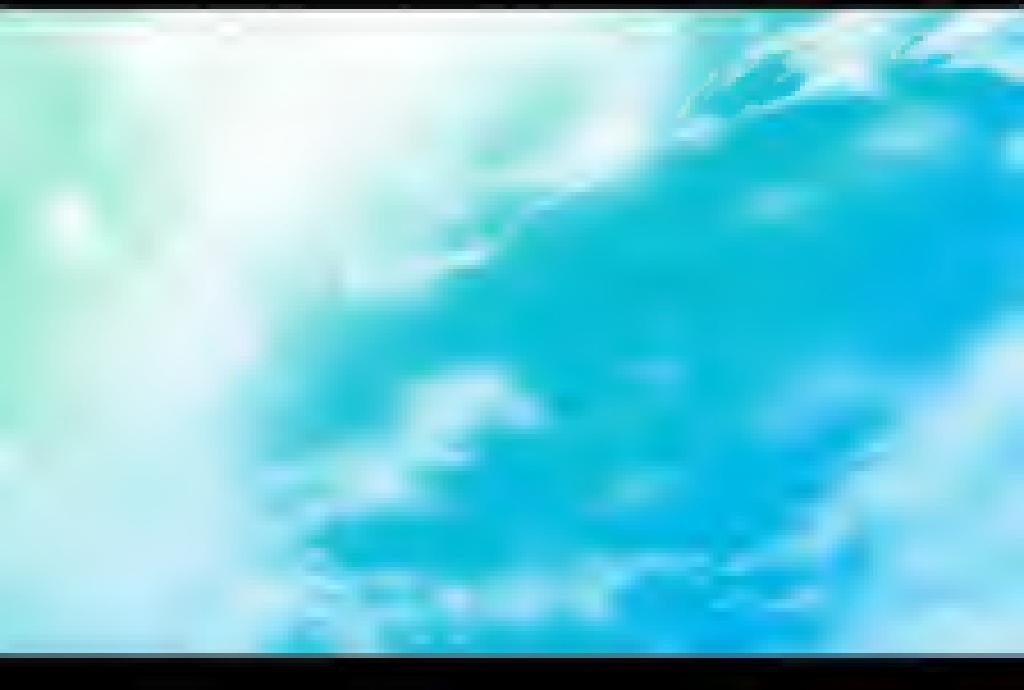
I NEVER TOLD HIM
WHERE I LIVE...
HOW'S HE GONNA FIND ME!?

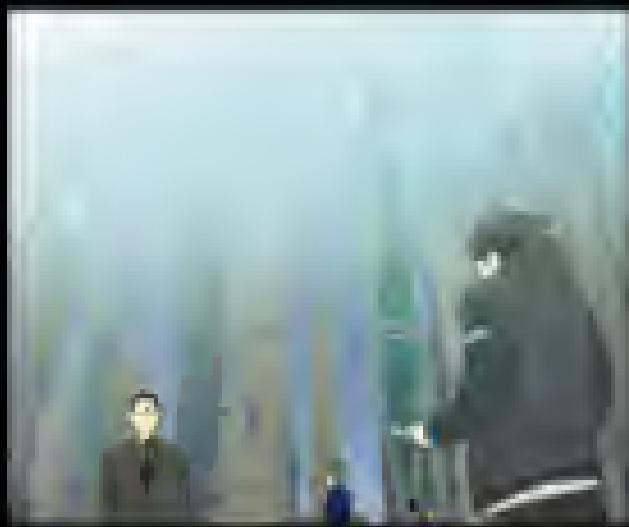
KURZA SAID SOON...
BUT A YEAR WENT BY AND HE STILL WASNT HERE...

AND ME...

WITHOUT EVEN PROPERLY SAYING
GOODBYE TO THE ONLY FRIEND I HAD...

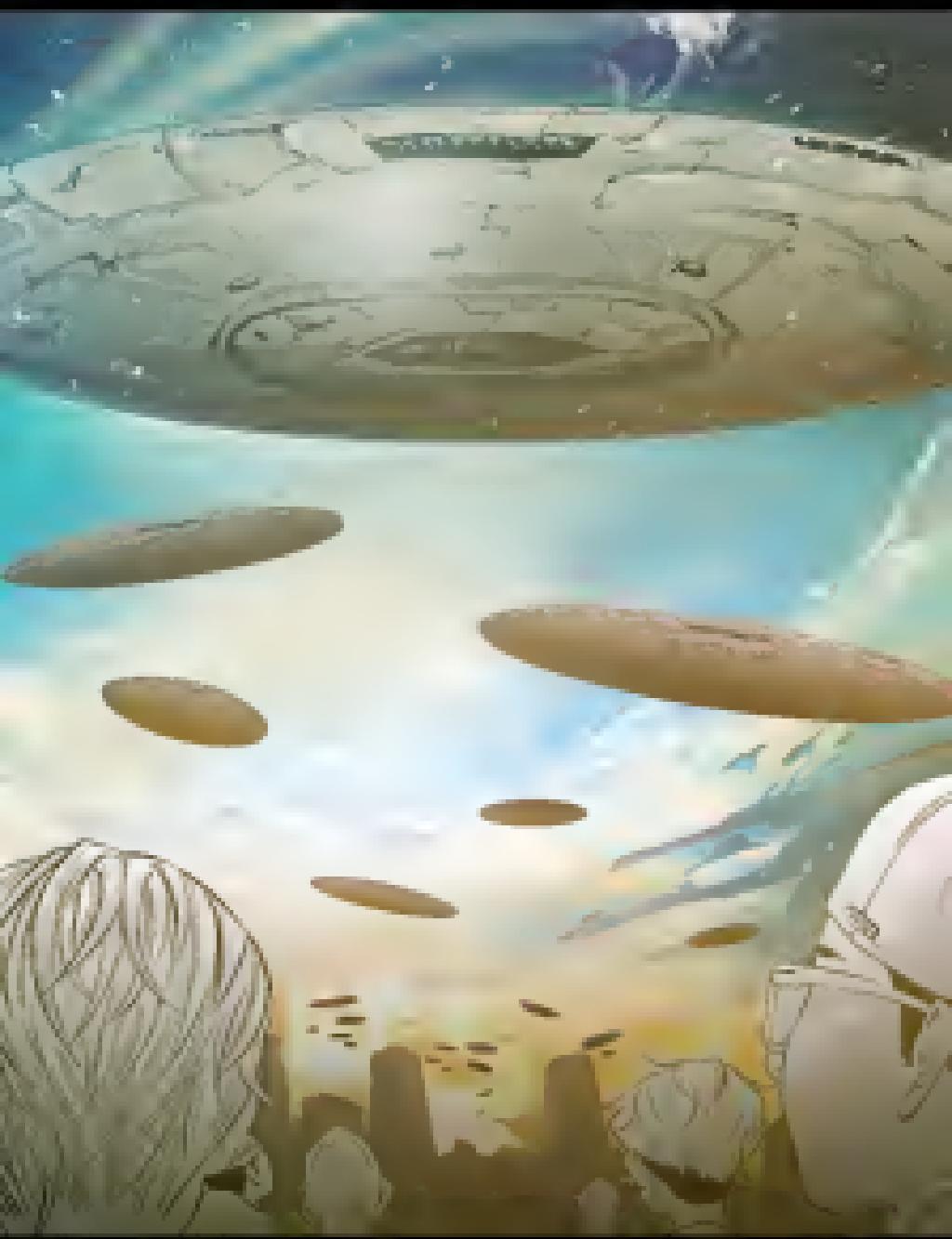
I WAS LEFT ALONE AGAIN.









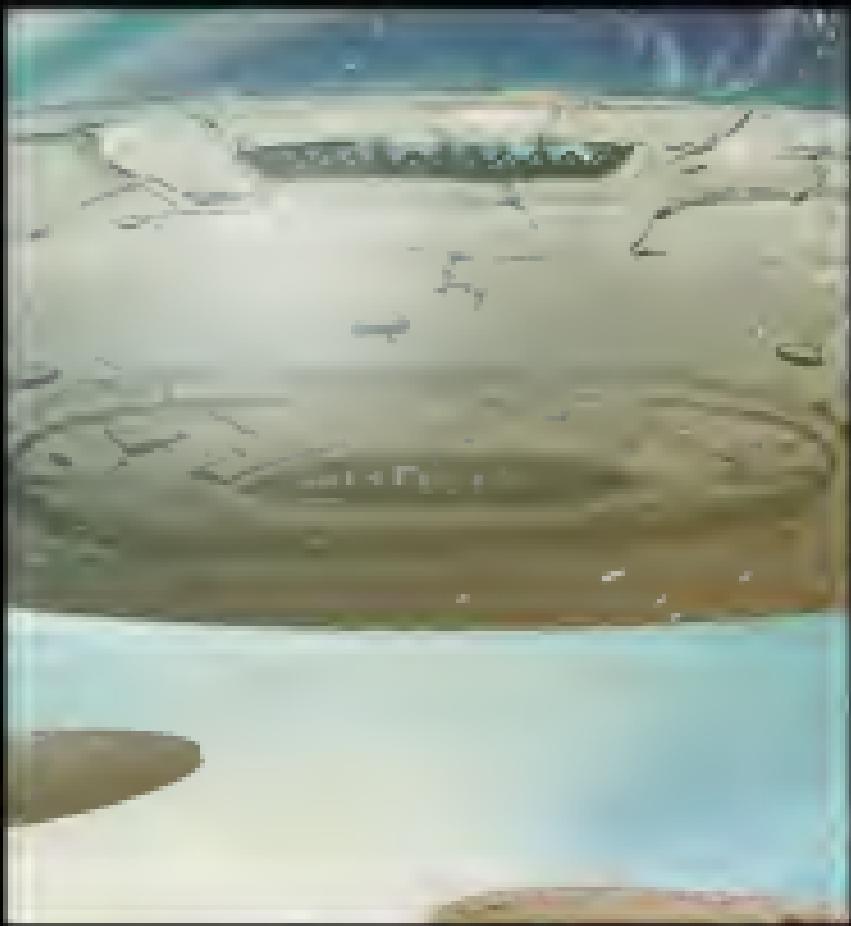


KRRRRRRRAA

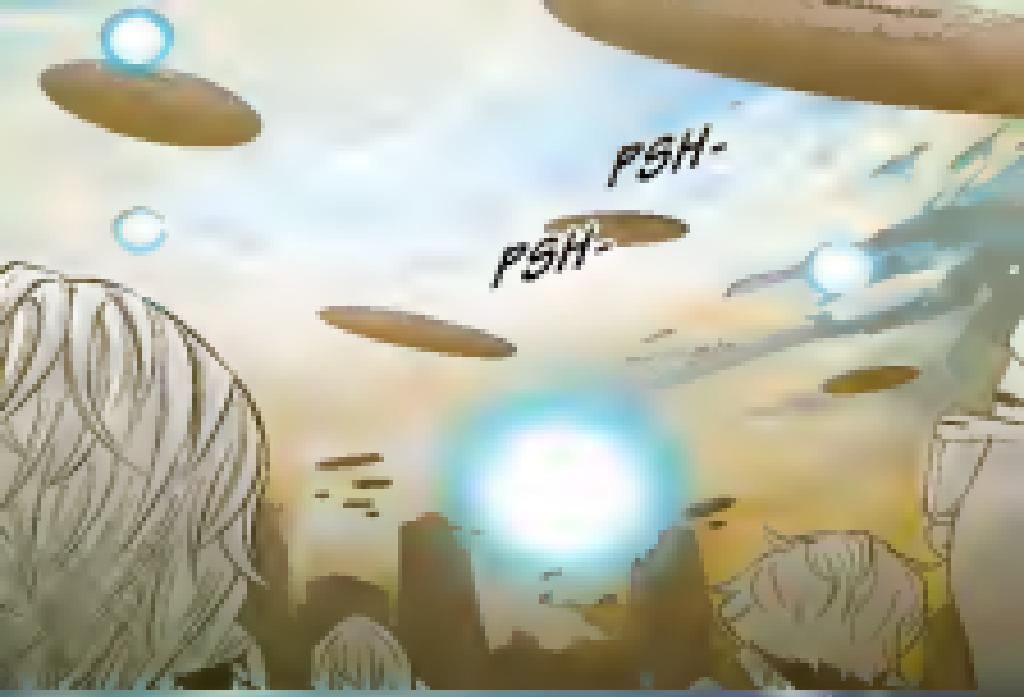
WHAT THE...?

IS THAT
A PLANE...?
WHAT IS THAT
THING...?

WHY S IT
SO HUGE...?







...

...

CHHHHH...

...

CHHH CHHH

CHHH CHHH

**THE EARTH IS
IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!!!**



**ALIEN SPACESHIPS
HAVE SURROUNDED
THE EARTH AND ARE BOMBING
EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!!!**



M-MOM...
WHAT'S... THAT...



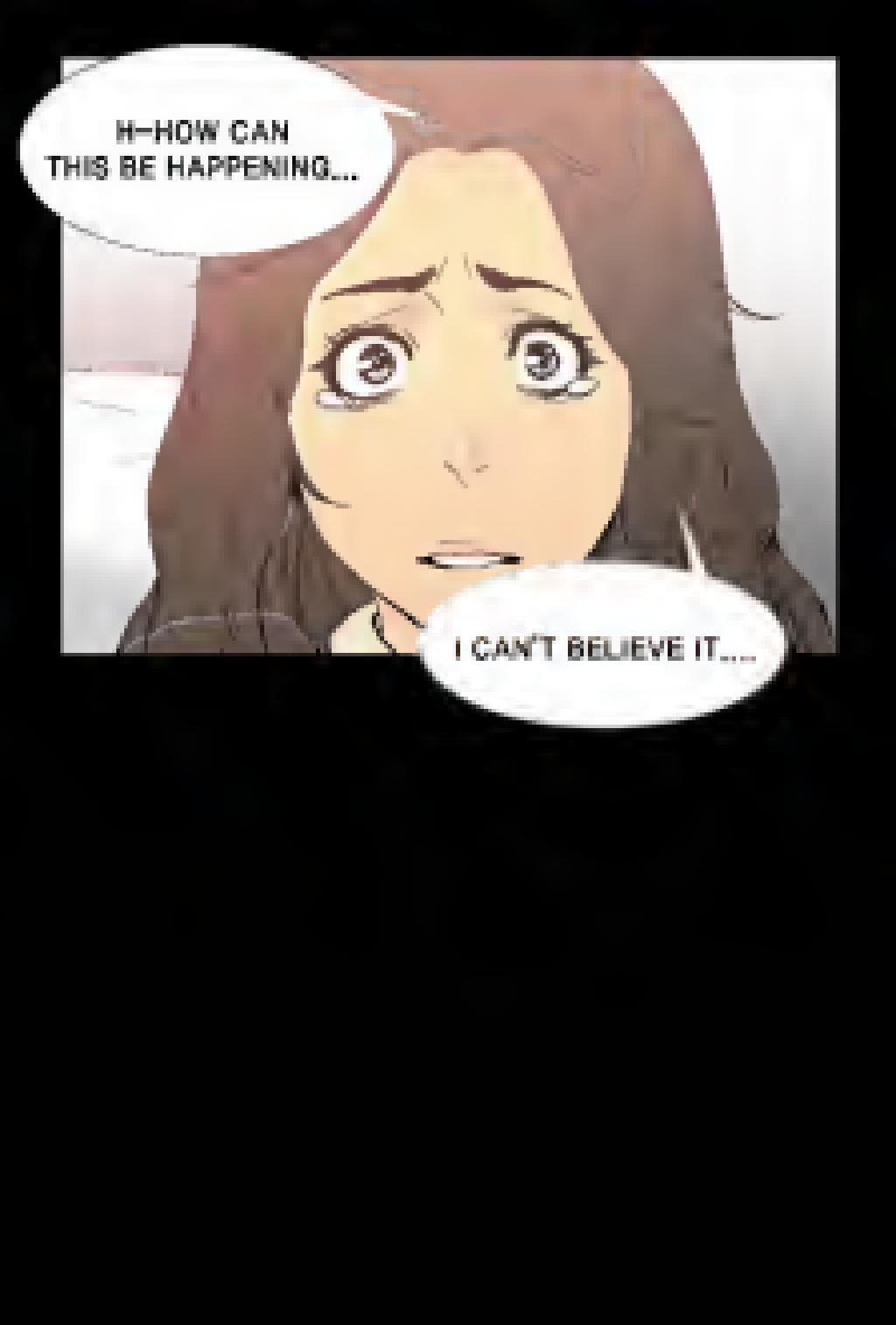
WHERE COULD THEY HAVE
COME FROM!!!

CHH-

GRRR...

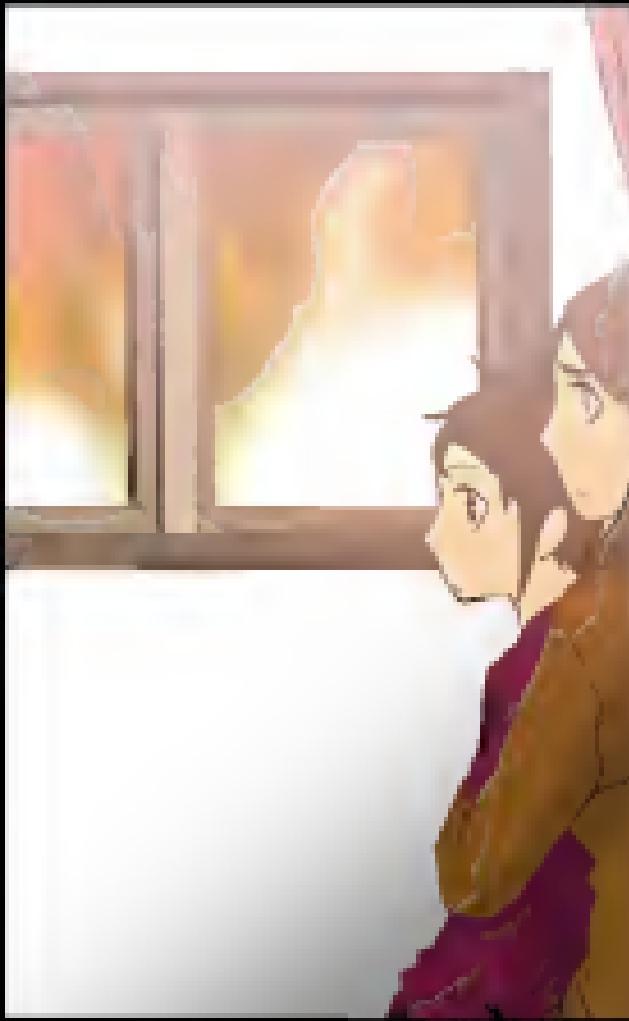
GRRR...

OVER 80% OF THE EARTH HAS
ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED,
AND THERE'S NO HOPE FOR...AH...
...AAAHHHHH!!!



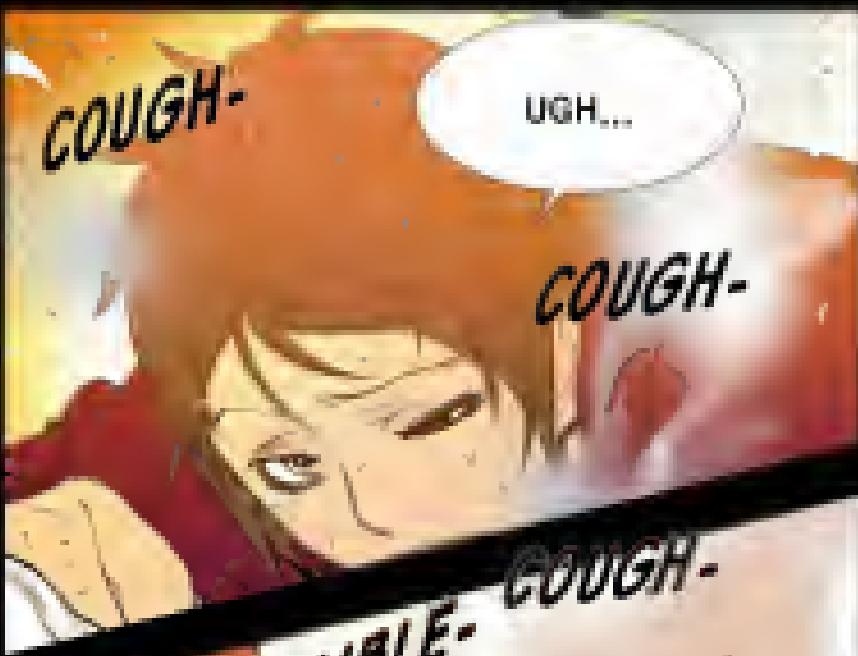
H—HOW CAN
THIS BE HAPPENING...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...



KABOOM

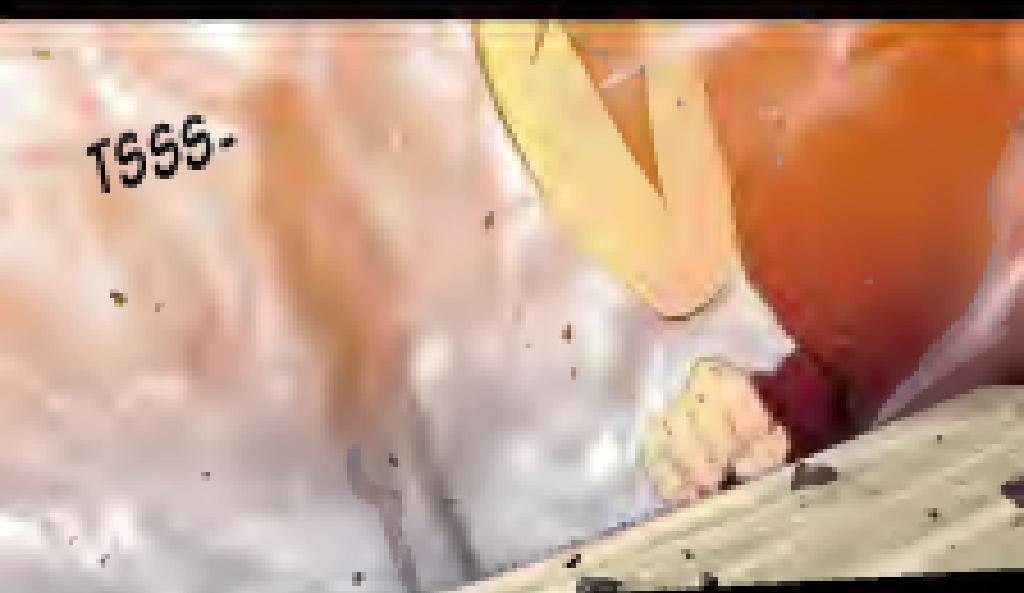






JI...YOOL...?

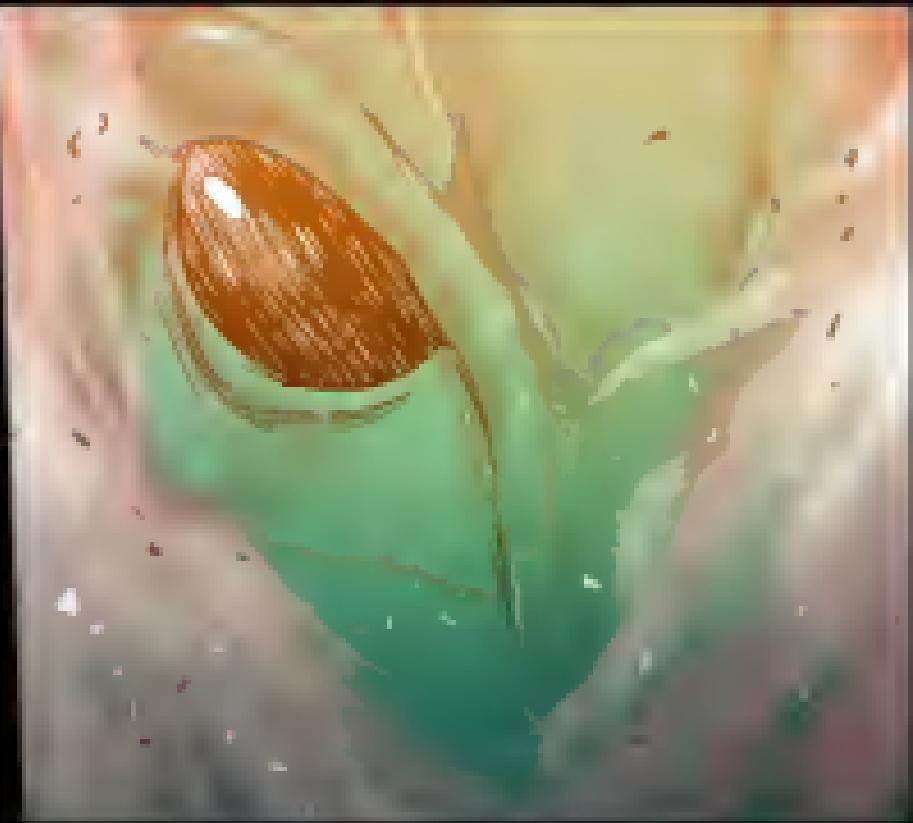
1955-



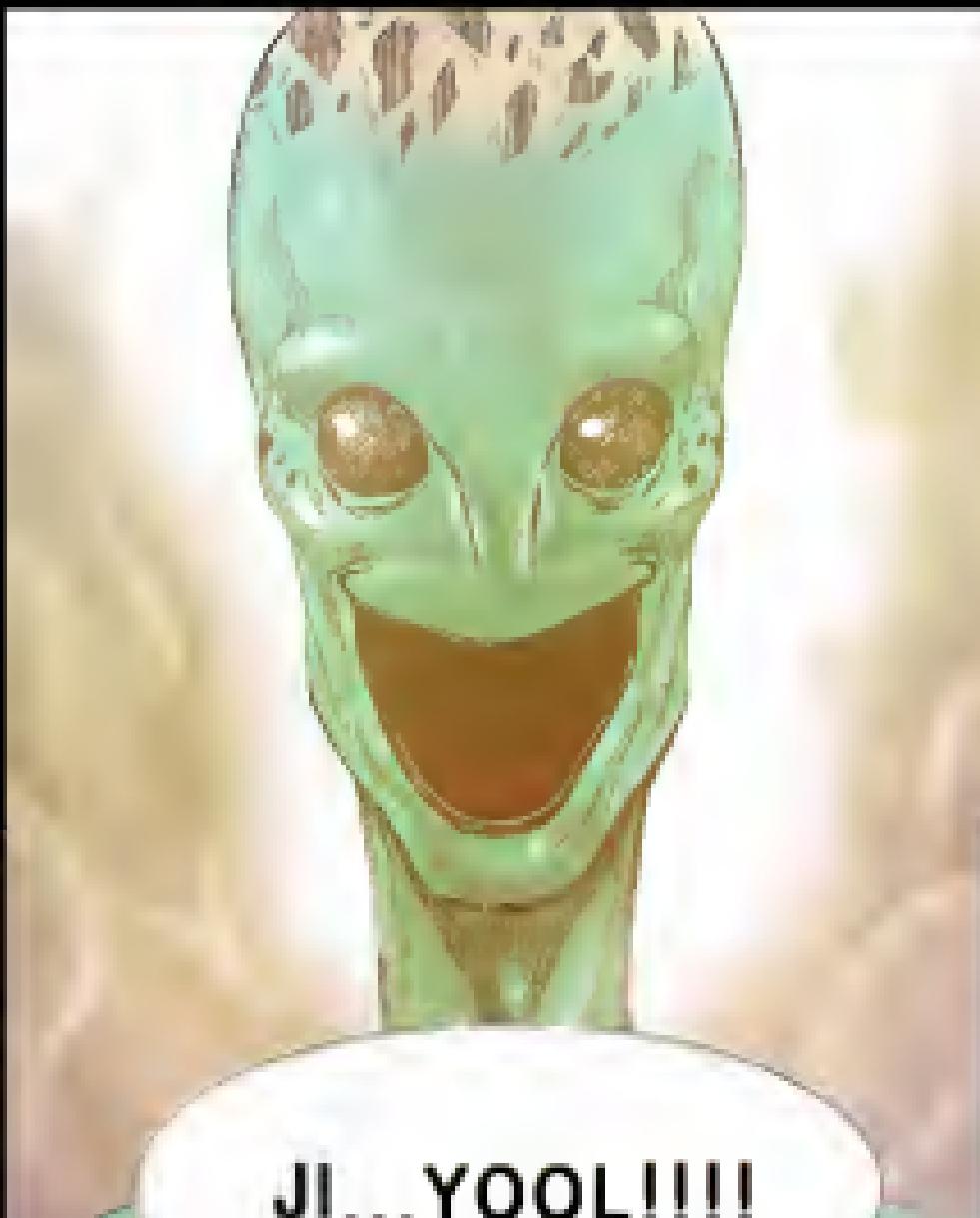


J...YOO...?









JI... YOOL!!!!



KUR...ZA...?





JIYOO...
THANKS TO YOU...
WE MANAGED...
TO COME TO EARTH...
YOU GAVE US A LOT
OF INFORMATION
THANK YOU...
JIYOO...

KURZA...
YOU...
YOU REALLY CAME...









WHIIING-

WHINNING-





TURN-

H-HUH...?

JYDOL...
I FIXED YOUR LEGS..
NOW...
YOU CAN WALK!!!

SKIP-

SKIP-

JUMPI

HUH..?
HOLY CRAP..
THEY'RE..
REALLY MOVING!!

WHINING -



SHE'LL BE FINE IN
AROUND THIRTY MINUTES—
DON'T WORRY



YOUR MOM HAS
JUST PASSED OUT
FOR A BIT!!

WHINING





STAND



GLANCE-



JIYOO.....



KURZA...

THANK YOU...
FOR COMING TO SEE ME...



LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE TOGETHER!!!

AND SO...

I MET MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD.

TODAY...



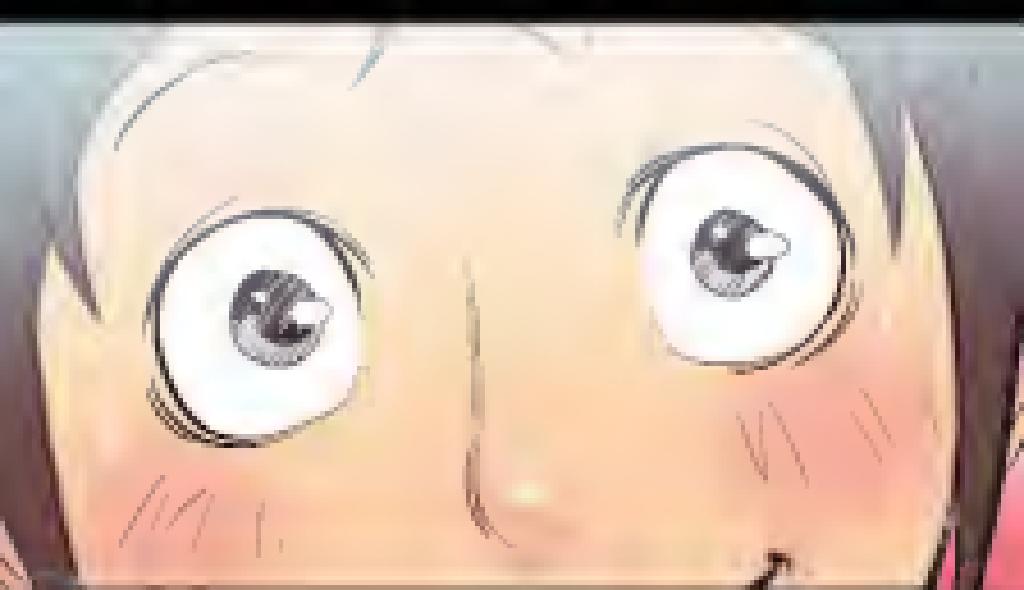
BEEP.

BEEP.

AND TOMORROW...



I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE HAPPILY...



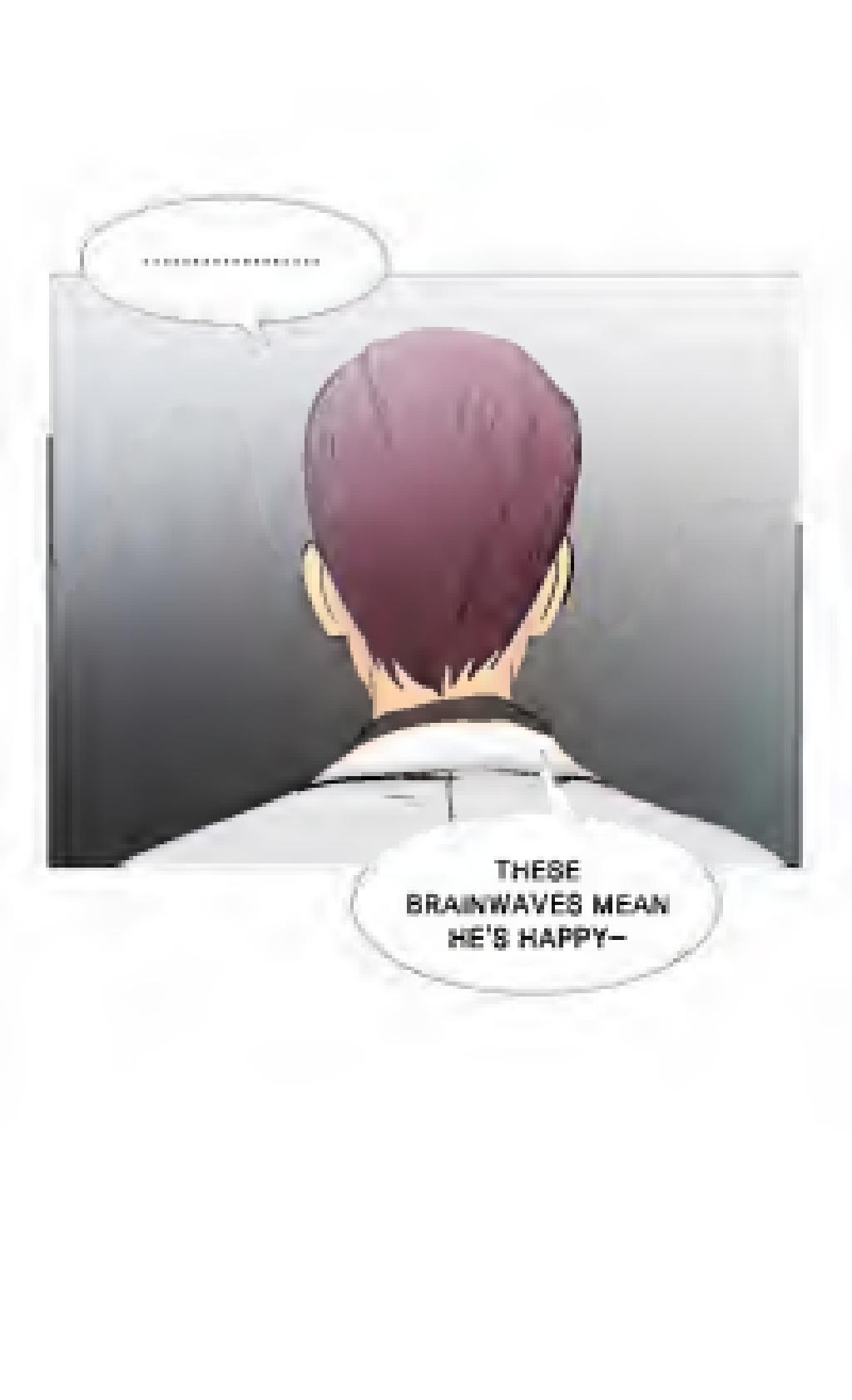
**WITH MY FRIEND!!
KURZA!!**

BEEP

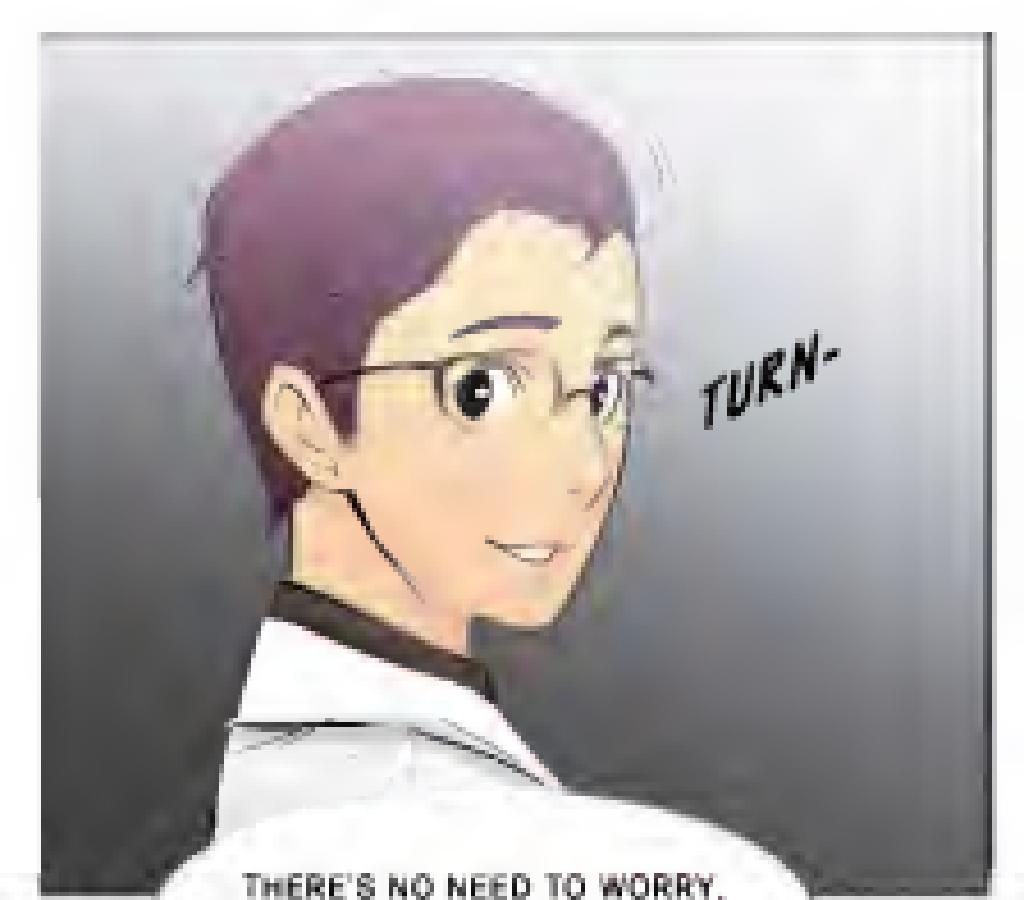
BEEP

BEEP

BEEP



THESE
BRAINWAVES MEAN
HE'S HAPPY-



TURN-

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
RIGHT NOW... HE'S HAVING
A VERY GOOD DREAM...









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